

FORM-PTO-1390 (Rev. 12-29-99)		U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 022701-943
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371			U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 C.F.R. 1.5) 09/913883
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/FR00/00342	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE 11 February 2000	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED 17 February 1999	
TITLE OF INVENTION ORGANIC SOL AND SOLID COMPOUND BASED ON TITANIUM OXIDE AND AN AMPHIPHILIC COMPOUND AND PREPARATION METHODS			
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US Nicole AUPAIX; Jean-Yves CHANE CHING			
Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:			
1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371. 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and the PCT Articles 22 and 39(1). 4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date. 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US). 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)). 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. 8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)). 9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)). 10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)). Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included: 11. <input type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. 12. <input type="checkbox"/> An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. 13. <input type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment. 14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification. 15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter. 16. <input type="checkbox"/> Other items or information:			

U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/913883		INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/FR00/00342		ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 022701-943	
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17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:				CALCULATIONS		PTO USE ONLY	
Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1,000.00 (960) International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00 (970) International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00 (958) International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00 (956) International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00 (962)							
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =							
Surcharge of \$130.00 (154) for furnishing the oath or declaration later than 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 <input type="checkbox"/> months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$			
Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate				
Total Claims	23 -20 =	3	X\$18.00 (966)	\$		54.00	
Independent Claims	2 -3 =	0	X\$80.00 (964)	\$		--	
Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00 (968)	\$			
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$		914.00	
Reduction for 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable (see below).				\$		-	
SUBTOTAL =				\$		914.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 (156) for furnishing the English translation later than 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 <input type="checkbox"/> months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$			
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$		914.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 (581) per property +				\$			
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$		914.00	
				Amount to be:			
				refunded		\$	
				charged		\$	

a. ☐ Small entity status is hereby claimed.

b. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 914.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.

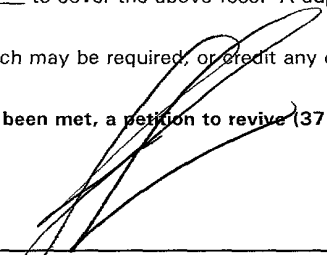
c. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 02-4800 in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

d. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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 SIGNATURE

 NAME

30,427
 REGISTRATION NUMBER

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Nicole AUPAIX et al.) Group Art Unit: (Unassigned)
Application No.: Unassigned) Examiner: (Unassigned)
(Corresponds to PCT/FR00/00342))
International Filing Date: 11 February 2000)
For: ORGANIC SOL AND SOLID)
COMPOUND BASED ON TITANIUM)
OXIDE AND AN AMPHIPHILIC)
COMPOUND AND PREPARATION)
METHODS)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly replace claims 1-23 as follows:

1. (Amended) Organic sol, comprising:
 - titanium oxide particles;
 - an organic liquid phase;
 - at least one amphiphilic compound selected from the group consisting of

polyoxyethylenated alkyl ether phosphates.

2. (Amended) Sol according to claim 1, wherein the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered by a layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.

3. (Amended) Sol according to claim 1, wherein the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered:

- by a first layer of at least one cerium and/or iron compound, and
- by a second layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.

4. (Amended) Sol according to claim 2, wherein the titanium oxide particles have a BET specific surface area of at least 70 m²/g.

5. (Amended) Sol according to claim 2, wherein the ratio by weight of the silicon or metallic oxide(s), hydroxide(s) or oxyhydroxide(s) to titanium dioxide is at most 60% by weight.

6. (Amended) Sol according to claim 3, wherein the first aforementioned layer is based on at least one cerium compound with a content such that the ratio by weight of the cerium compound, expressed in CeO₂, to the titanium dioxide is at most 6% by weight.

7. (Amended) Sol according to claim 2, wherein the first layer or the second layer is based on silica and/or aluminum oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.
8. (Amended) Sol according to claim 1, wherein the organic liquid phase is based on a polar solvent.
9. (Amended) Sol according to claim 1, wherein the amphiphilic compound is selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylenated alkyl or alkylaryl ether phosphates.
10. (Amended) Sol according to claim 1, wherein the polar solvent is selected from the group consisting of halogenated solvents, esters, and alcohols.
11. (Amended) Solid compound comprising a mixture of titanium oxide particles and at least one amphiphilic compound selected from polyoxyethylenated alkyl ether phosphates.
12. (Amended) Solid compound according to claim 11, wherein the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered with a layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.

13. (Amended) Solid compound according to claim 11, wherein the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered:

- by a first layer of at least one cerium and/or iron compound, and
- by a second layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.

14. (Amended) Process for the preparation of a sol according to claim 1, comprising the mixing amphiphilic compound and the organic liquid phase together, then the titanium oxide particles, optionally covered with one or both of the aforementioned layers, are dispersed in the mixture obtained.

15. (Amended) Process for the preparation of a sol according to claim 1, comprising a mixture forming of titanium oxide particles, optionally covered by one or both of the aforementioned layers, and at least one aforementioned amphiphilic compound, then dispersing said mixture in the liquid phase.

16. (Amended) Process for the preparation of a sol according to claim 1 comprising an organic liquid phase (a), in particular a sol in an organic phase (a) based on a polar solvent, comprising forming a dispersion comprising titanium oxide particles, optionally covered by one or both of the aforementioned layers, and at least one aforementioned amphiphilic compound in an organic liquid phase (b) based on a solvent with a lower polarity than that of the solvent of the organic liquid phase (a); separating the

solid phase from the liquid phase (b); and dispersing the solid phase obtained in this way in the organic phase (a).

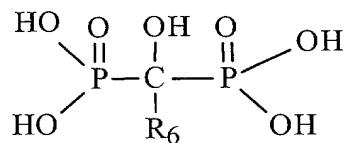
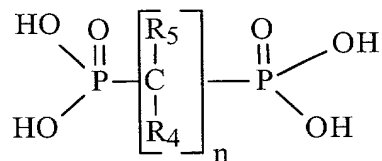
17. (Amended) Preparation process according to claim 14, comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles which were obtained by hydrolysis of at least one titanium compound A in the presence of at least one compound B selected from the group consisting of:

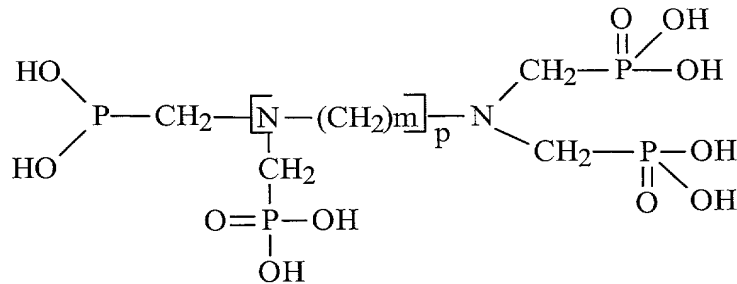
(i) acids which have:

- either a carboxyl group and at least two hydroxyl and/or amine groups,
- or at least two carboxyl groups and at least one hydroxyl and/or amine

group,

(ii) organic phosphoric acids of the following formulas:





in which n and m are integers comprised between 1 and 6, p is an integer comprised between 0 and 5, R₄, R₅ and R₆ identical or different represent a hydroxyl, amino, aralkyl, aryl, alkyl group or hydrogen group,

- (iii) the compounds capable of releasing sulphate ions in an acid medium,
- (iv) salts of the acids described above

and in the presence of anatase titanium dioxide seeds;

then separating the precipitate formed from the hydrolysis medium.

18. (Amended) Process according to claim 17, comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles which were obtained by the hydrolysis process and in which the anatase titanium dioxide seeds are of a size no greater than 8 nm and are present in ratio by weight expressed in TiO₂ present in the seeds/titanium present before the introduction of the seeds into the hydrolysis medium, expressed in TiO₂ comprised between 0.01 % and 3 %.

19. (Amended) Process according to claim 17, comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles which were obtained by the aforementioned hydrolysis process and in which the titanium compound A is titanium oxychloride.

20. (Amended) Process according to claim 17, comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles which were obtained by the aforementioned hydrolysis process and in which compound B is critic acid.

21. (Amended) Process according to claim 17, comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles which were obtained by a process comprising the aforementioned hydrolysis and in which the precipitate formed is separated from the hydrolysis medium then redispersed in water resulting in a dispersion of titanium oxide in water and where said dispersion is dried at a temperature no greater than 120°C.

22. (Amended) Process according to, wherein the sol is subjected to an ultrafiltration treatment.

23. (Amended) Formulates for cosmetics, varnishes, paints or plastics comprising an effective amount of the sol according to claim 1.

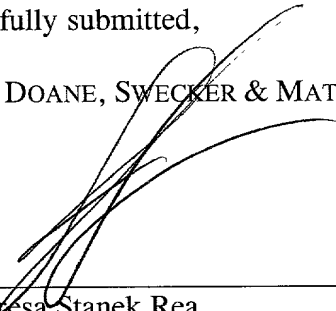
REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to eliminate multiple dependency and to place them in better condition for U.S. patent practice.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the subject application, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

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Date: August 17, 2001

T0503T" E88ET660

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated August 17, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-23

1. (Amended) Organic sol, [characterized in that is comprises] comprising:
- titanium oxide particles;
 - an organic liquid phase;
 - at least one amphiphilic compound [chosen] selected from the group
- consisting of polyoxyethylenated alkyl ether phosphates.
2. (Amended) Sol according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered by a layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.
3. (Amended) Sol according to claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered:
- by a first layer of at least one cerium and/or iron compound, and
 - by a second layer of at lest one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.
4. (Amended) Sol according to claim 2 [or 3], [characterized in that] wherein the titanium oxide particles have a BET specific surface area of at least 70 m²/g.

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated August 17, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-23

5. (Amended) Sol according to [one of claims 2 to 4] claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the ratio by weight of the silicon or metallic oxide(s), hydroxide(s) or oxyhydroxide(s) to titanium dioxide is at most 60% by weight.

6. (Amended) Sol according to [one of claims 3 to 5] claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein the first aforementioned layer is based on at least one cerium compound with a content such that the ratio by weight of the cerium compound, expressed in CeO₂, to the titanium dioxide is at most 6% by weight.

7. (Amended) Sol according to [one of claims 2 to 6] claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the [aforementioned] first layer or the [aforementioned] second layer is based on silica and/or aluminum oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.

8. (Amended) Sol according to [one of the previous claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the organic liquid phase is based on a polar solvent.

9. (Amended) Sol according to [one of the previous claims] claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the amphiphilic compound is [chosen] selected from the group consisting of polyoxyethylenated alkyl or alkylaryl ether phosphates.

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated August 17, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-23

10. (Amended) Sol according to [one of the previous claims] claim 1,
[characterized in that] wherein the polar solvent is [chosen] selected from the group
consisting of halogenated solvents, esters, and alcohols.

11. (Amended) Solid compound[, characterized in that it comprises] comprising
a mixture of titanium oxide particles and at least one amphiphilic compound [chosen]
selected from polyoxyethylenated alkyl ether phosphates.

12. (Amended) Solid compound according to claim 11, [characterized in that]
wherein the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered with a layer of at least one
silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.

13. (Amended) Solid compound according to claim 11, [characterized in that]
wherein the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered:

- by a first layer of at least one cerium and/or iron compound, and
- by a second layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or
oxyhydroxide.

14. (Amended) Process for the preparation of a sol according to [one of claims
1 to 10] claim 1, [characterized in that] comprising the [aforementioned] mixing
amphiphilic compound and the organic liquid phase [are mixed] together, then the titanium

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated August 17, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-23

oxide particles, optionally covered with one or both of the aforementioned layers, are dispersed in the mixture obtained.

15. (Amended) Process for the preparation of a sol according to [one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1, [characterized in that] comprising a mixture [is formed] forming of titanium oxide particles, optionally covered by one or both of the aforementioned layers, and at least one aforementioned amphiphilic compound, then dispersing said mixture [is dispersed] in the liquid phase.

16. (Amended) Process for the preparation of a sol according to [one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1 comprising an organic liquid phase (a), in particular a sol in an organic phase (a) based on a polar solvent, [characterized in that] comprising forming a dispersion [is formed] comprising titanium oxide particles, optionally covered by one or both of the aforementioned layers, and at least one aforementioned amphiphilic compound in an organic liquid phase (b) based on a solvent with a lower polarity than that of the solvent of the organic liquid phase (a); separating the solid phase [is separated] from the liquid phase (b); and dispersing the solid phase obtained in this way [is dispersed] in the organic phase (a).

17. (Amended) Preparation process according to [one of claims 14 to 16] claim 14, [characterized in that] comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated August 17, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-23

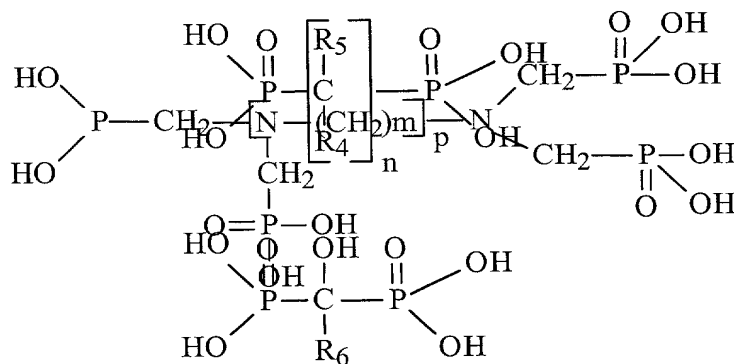
particles [are used] which were obtained by hydrolysis of at least one titanium compound A
in the presence of at least one compound B [chosen] selected from the group consisting of:

(i) acids which have:

- either a carboxyl group and at least two hydroxyl and/or amine groups,
- or at least two carboxyl groups and at least one hydroxyl and/or amine

group,

(ii) organic phosphoric acids of the following formulas:



in which n and m are integers comprised between 1 and 6, p is an integer comprised
between 0 and 5, R₄, R₅ and R₆ identical or different represent a hydroxyl, amino, aralkyl,
aryl, alkyl group or hydrogen group,

(iii) the compounds capable of releasing sulphate ions in an acid medium,

(iv) salts of the acids described above

and in the presence of anatase titanium dioxide seeds;

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated August 17, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-23

then [separation of] separating the precipitate formed from the hydrolysis medium.

18. (Amended) Process according to claim 17, [characterized in that]
comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles [are used] which were
obtained by the [aforementioned] hydrolysis process and in which the anatase titanium
dioxide seeds are of a size no greater than 8 nm and are present in ratio by weight
expressed in TiO₂ present in the seeds/titanium present before the introduction of the seeds
into the hydrolysis medium, expressed in TiO₂ comprised between 0.01 % and 3 %.

19. (Amended) Process according to claim 17 [or 18], [characterized in that]
comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles [are used] which were
obtained by the aforementioned hydrolysis process and in which the titanium compound A
is titanium oxychloride.

20. (Amended) Process according to [one of claims 17 to 19] claim 17,
[characterized in that] comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles
[are used] which were obtained by the aforementioned hydrolysis process and in which
compound B is critic acid.

21. (Amended) Process according to [one of claims 17 to 20] claim 17,
[characterized in that] comprising using, as the starting product, titanium dioxide particles

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated August 17, 2001

Marked-up Claims 1-23

[are used] which were obtained by a process comprising the aforementioned hydrolysis and in which the precipitate formed is separated from the hydrolysis medium then redispersed in water resulting in a dispersion of titanium oxide in water and where said dispersion is dried at a temperature no greater than 120°C.

22. (Amended) Process according to [one of claims 14 to 21], [characterized in that] wherein the sol is subjected to an ultrafiltration treatment.

23. (Amended) [Use of a sol according to one of claims 1 to 10 for the preparation of formulations] Formulates for cosmetics, varnishes, paints [and in] or plastics comprising an effective amount of the sol according to claim 1.

09/913883
518 Rec'd PCT/PTO 17 AUG 2001

**ORGANIC SOL AND SOLID COMPOUND BASED ON TITANIUM OXIDE AND AN
AMPHIPHILIC COMPOUND AND PREPARATION PROCESSES**

5 The present invention relates to an organic sol and a solid compound based on titanium oxide and an amphiphilic compound and their preparation processes.

Colloidal sols or dispersions of titanium oxide in organic media are known. However, the preparation processes of these sols are complex from an industrial point of view. A first class of processes uses compounds sensitive to water such as titanium
10 alkoxides. Another class generally involves the preparation of an aqueous sol in the first instance and secondly bringing this aqueous sol into contact with an organic phase in order to transfer the titanium oxide into the organic phase. Such an operating method is not suitable for preparing sols in polar phases which are miscible with water. There is therefore a requirement for simpler processes which also provide access to sols with
15 varying characteristics.

A subject of the present invention is to provide such processes and such organic sols.

For this purpose, the organic sol according to the invention is characterized in that it comprises titanium oxide particles; an organic liquid phase and at least one
20 amphiphilic compound chosen from the polyoxyethylenated alkyl ether phosphates.

The invention also relates to a process for the preparation of such a sol which, according to a first variant, is characterized in that said amphiphilic compound and the organic liquid phase are mixed together, then the titanium oxide particles are dispersed in the mixture obtained. According to a second variant, the process is characterized in
25 that a mixture of titanium oxide particles and at least one said amphiphilic compound are mixed together and said mixture is dispersed in the organic liquid phase.

The sols according to the invention have the advantage of being able to exist in a wide range of solvents, polar or non-polar solvents.

Other characteristics, details and advantages of the invention will appear more
30 fully on reading the following description and the various concrete but non-limitative examples intended to illustrate it.

In the remainder of the description, the expression sol or colloidal dispersion of titanium oxide designates any system constituted by fine solid particles of colloidal dimensions based on titanium oxide suspended in a liquid phase, said types also being
35 optionally able to contain residual quantities of linked or adsorbed ions such as for

example chlorides, sulphates, nitrates, acetates, citrates, ammoniums or organic bases such as diethylamine. It should be noted that in such dispersions, the titanium may either be totally in the form of colloids or simultaneously in the form of ions and in the form of colloids.

5 The particles of the sol according to the invention can be based on titanium dioxide with a mainly anatase crystal structure. "Mainly" means that the content of the anatase titanium dioxide particles is higher than 50% by mass. Preferably, the particles have an anatase content greater than 80%. The degree of crystallization rate and the nature of the crystalline phase are measured by XR diffraction.

10 These particles can also be of rutile structure.

The average diameter of these particles in the sol is generally at most 250 nm, preferably at least 15 nm, even more preferentially between 20 and 70 nm. It is specified here that the average diameter of the particles or colloids must be understood as designating the average hydrodynamic diameter of the latter, and as determined by quasi-elastic diffusion of light according to the method described by Michael L. Mc
15 Connell in the journal Analytical Chemistry 53, no. 8, 1007 A, (1981).

The particles of the sol according to the invention generally have a BET specific surface area of at least 200 m²/g, preferably at least 250 m²/g.

By BET specific surface area is meant the specific surface area determined by
20 nitrogen adsorption according to the ASTM D 3663-78 standard based on the BRUNAUER – EMMETT – TELLER method described in the periodical "The Journal of the American Society", 60, 309 (1938). In order to measure the specific surface area of the particles according to the invention, when they are in the form of a dispersion, it is essential to follow the measurement protocol which consists of eliminating the liquid
25 phase from the dispersion then drying the particles under vacuum at a temperature of 150°C for at least 4 hours.

According to two variants of the invention, the titanium oxide particles of the sol can comprise a coating. Before the following description of these two variants, it can be specified here that in both cases, the particles have an average diameter generally of at
30 most 100 nm, preferably at least 25 nm, even more preferentially comprised between 50 and 70 nm. These coated particles also generally have a BET specific surface area of at least 70 m²/g, preferably at least 100 m²/g.

In the first of these variants, the titanium oxide particles are at least partially coated with a layer of at least one metallic or silicon oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.
35 For this first variant, reference can be made to Patent Application EP-A-880564 the

teaching of which relating to the description of the product and its method of preparation is incorporated here by way of reference. These metallic oxides, hydroxides or oxyhydroxides can in particular be chosen from SiO_2 , ZrO_2 , aluminium, zinc, titanium or tin oxides, hydroxides or oxyhydroxides in simple or mixed form. By mixed is understood a metallic compound based on at least two of the aforementioned elements (silicoaluminates, etc.).

In general, the ratio by weight of the metallic oxides, hydroxides or oxyhydroxides to the titanium dioxide is at most 60% by weight. This ratio is a function of the use for which the particles are intended. Preferably, when the particles are used in a cosmetic application, this ratio is 25%, even more preferentially at most 20%.

This quantity of metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide is measured on the particles in dispersion by X-ray fluorescence.

According to a particular embodiment of the invention, the particles are at least partially covered with a layer of silica and/or an aluminium oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide in simple or mixed form.

According to another embodiment, the particles are covered with a layer of silica and aluminium hydroxide or oxyhydroxide with an SiO_2 content of 30% by weight and an Al_2O_3 content of 15% by weight with respect to the titanium dioxide.

According to more particular embodiment, the particles are covered with a layer of silica and aluminium hydroxide or oxyhydroxide with an SiO_2 content of 15% by weight and an Al_2O_3 content of 5% by weight with respect to the titanium dioxide.

According to the second of these variants, the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered with a first layer of at least one compound of cerium and/or iron, and a second layer of least one metallic or silicon oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide. For this second variant, reference can be made to Patent Application WO-A-98/01392 the teaching of which relating to the description of the product and its preparation method are incorporated here by way of reference.

The compounds present in the first aforementioned layer are precursors of cerium or iron oxide, i.e. they are thermally decomposable to cerium or iron oxide. They may be cerium or iron salts.

Particles covered with a cerium compound are preferred. The ratio by weight of the cerium compound(s) to the titanium dioxide is preferably at most 6% by weight, expressed in CeO_2 . This ratio can be optimized as a function of the size of the particles. Thus, it has been observed that for particles of 25 nm diameter, the optimum cerium content was 5.5% by weight, expressed in CeO_2 , with respect to the titanium dioxide;

similarly for particles of 45 nm diameter, this content is 4.5%; for particles of 60 nm diameter, this content is 3%, and for particles of 80 nm diameter, this content is 2%.

The particles of this second variant are also at least partially covered with a second layer based on at least one metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide. The oxide is generally SiO_2 , while the metallic hydroxide or oxyhydroxide can in particular be chosen from the aluminium, zinc, titanium or tin hydroxides or oxyhydroxides in simple or mixed form (as defined above).

In general, the ratio by weight of the metallic oxides, hydroxides or oxyhydroxides to the titanium dioxide is at most 60% by weight. This ratio is a function of the use for which the particles are intended. Preferably, when the particles are used in a cosmetic application, this ratio is at most 25%, even more preferentially at most 20%.

These quantities of metallic compounds, oxides, hydroxides or oxyhydroxides are measured on the particles in dispersion by X-ray fluorescence.

According to a particular embodiment, the particles are covered at least partially with a first layer of a compound of cerium and a second layer based on silica and/or an aluminium hydroxide or oxyhydroxide in simple or mixed form. The contents by weight can in this case be 15% of SiO_2 and 5% of Al_2O_3 with respect to the titanium dioxide. The second layer can also be based solely on silica with a content by weight of 30% of SiO_2 .

The organic liquid phase of the sol according to the invention can be based on an organic liquid or a very varied mixture of organic liquids.

The organic solvent or liquid can be an inert cycloaliphatic or aliphatic hydrocarbon, or a mixture of the two, such as for example mineral spirits or naphtha which may also contain aromatic components. There can be mentioned for example hexane, heptane, octane, nonane, decane, cyclohexane, cyclopentane, cycloheptane and liquid naphthenes. The aromatic solvents such as benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene and the xylenes are also suitable as well as petroleum fractions of ISOPAR or SOLVESSO type (trade marks registered by the company EXXON), in particular SOLVESSO 100 which mainly contains a mixture of methylethyl and trimethylbenzene, and SOLVESSO 150 which contains a mixture of alkyl benzenes, in particular dimethylethylbenzene and tetramethylbenzene.

Chlorinated hydrocarbons can also be used such as chloro or dichlorobenzene, chlorotoluene as well as aliphatic and cycloaliphatic ethers such as diisopropyl ether, dibutyl ether and aliphatic and cycloaliphatic ketones such as methylisobutylketone, diisobutylketone, mesityl oxide.

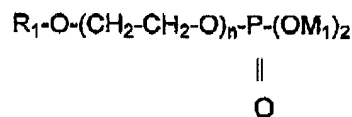
Ketones can also be used such as acetone, aldehydes, nitrogenous solvents such as acetonitrile, alcohols, acids and phenols.

Esters can also be envisaged. As esters which may be used there can in particular be mentioned those resulting from the reaction of acids with C1 to C8 alcohols and in particular secondary alcohol palmitates such as isopropanol. The acids from which these esters originate can be aliphatic carboxylic acids, aliphatic sulphonic acids, aliphatic phosphonic acids, alkylarylsulphonic acids and alkylarylphosphonic acids having approximately 10 to approximately 40 carbon atoms, either natural or synthetic. By way of example there can be mentioned the fatty acids of tallol, coconut oil, soya oil, tallow oil, linseed oil, oleic acid, linoleic acid, stearic acid and its isomers, pelargonic acid, capric acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, dodecylbenzenesulphonic acid, 2-ethyl hexanoic acid, naphthenic acid, hexoic acid, toluene-sulphonic acid, toluene-phosphonic acid, lauryl-sulphonic acid, lauryl-phosphonic acid, palmityl-sulphonic acid and palmityl-phosphonic acid.

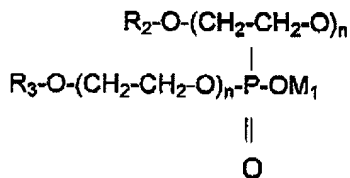
According to a particularly useful characteristic of the sol according to the invention, the organic liquid phase is based on a polar solvent or a mixture of polar solvents. By polar solvent is meant those having a dielectric constant ϵ_r greater than 5, as defined in particular in the publication "Solvents and Solvent Effects in Organic Chemistry", C. Reichardt, VCH, 1988. This polar solvent can be chosen from halogenated solvents such as dichloromethane; esters of ethyl acetate, isopropyl palmitate, methoxy-propyl acetate type; alcohols such as ethanol, butanol or isopropanol; polyols such as propane diol, butane diol or diethylene glycol; ketones such as cyclohexanone or 1-methylpyrrolidin-2-one.

According to an important characteristic of the invention, the sol further comprises an amphiphilic compound. Without wishing to be bound by one explanation, it can be considered that this amphiphilic compound is adsorbed on or in electrostatic interaction with the titanium oxide particles or also complexed with the latter.

This compound is chosen from the polyoxyethylenated alkyl ether phosphates. The polyoxyethylenated alkyl ether phosphates of the following formula are meant here:



or also the polyoxyethylenated dialkoyl phosphates of formula:



in which R_1 , R_2 , R_3 , identical or different, represent a linear or branched alkyl radical, in particular with 2 to 20 carbon atoms; a phenyl radical; an alkylaryl radical, more particularly an alkylphenyl radical, in particular with an alkyl chain with 8 to 12 carbon atoms; an arylalkyl radical, more particularly a phenylaryl radical; n the number of ethylene oxide being able to vary from 2 to 12 for example; M_1 represents a hydrogen, sodium or potassium atom. The R_3 radical can in particular be a hexyl, octyl, decyl, dodecyl, oleyl, nonylphenyl radical.

As an example of this type of amphiphilic compound there can be mentioned those marketed under the brand names Lubrophos® and Rhodafac® and in particular the products below:

- the poly-oxy-ethylene- alkyl (C8-C10) ether phosphates Rhodafac® RA 600
- the poly-oxyethylene tri-decyl ether phosphate Rhodafac® RS 710 or RS 410
- the poly-oxy-ethylene oleoketyl ether phosphate Rhodafac® PA 35
- the poly-oxy-ethylene nonylphenyl ether phosphate Rhodafac® PA 17
- the poly-oxy-ethylene nonyl(branched) ether phosphate Rhodafac® RE 610

The amphiphilic compound is chosen as a function of the nature of the organic liquid phase. More specifically, this choice is made by adapting the hydrophilic/lipophilic equilibrium of the amphiphilic compound to the hydrophilic/lipophilic character of the organic phase. In other words, the more polar the solvent contained in the organic phase, the more hydrophilic the amphiphilic compound will be.

The proportion of amphiphilic compound with respect to the titanium oxide is generally comprised between 2 and 10 molecules per nm^2 of titanium oxide surface area, assuming a surface area comprised between 10 and 80 \AA^2 per complexing head of titanium cation.

The sols according to the invention have a concentration of titanium compound which can reach 40% expressed by weight of TiO_2 with respect to the total weight of the dispersion.

The organic sols produced in this way have excellent stability. No settlement is observed after several months.

The present invention also relates to a solid compound which is characterized in that it comprises a mixture of titanium oxide particles and at least one amphiphilic compound chosen from those described above.

5 This solid compound is presented either in the form of a paste or in the form of a powder. The titanium oxide is presented in this solid compound in the form of aggregated elementary crystallites, the average size of the aggregates ranging from 20 to 100nm. The solid compound has the property of being redispersible, i.e. being able to produce a sol according to the invention and as described above when it is suspended in an organic liquid phase.

10 The titanium oxide particles of the solid compound according to the invention can comprise a coating which is at least partial in the form of a layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide or also in the form of a first layer of at least one compound of cerium and/or iron and a second layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.

15 What was described previously regarding the particles of the sol also applies here for the solid compound.

The preparation processes for the solid compound and the sol according to the invention will now be described.

20 As starting product, any titanium oxide is used which is capable of producing a sol when it is dispersed in a liquid phase and in particular any titanium oxide capable of being in the form described above regarding the solid compound.

There follows the description of and the preparation process for the titanium oxide particles which are particularly suitable as starting products for preparing the sol and the solid compound according to the invention.

25 The starting products are based on titanium dioxide with a mainly anatase crystal structure as defined previously.

30 These starting anatase titanium dioxide particles can be of a size of at most 100 nm, preferably at least 15 nm, yet more preferentially comprised between 20 and 70 nm. This diameter is measured by transmission electron microscopy (TEM). Their BET specific surface area is generally at least 200 m²/g, preferably at least 250 m²/g. This BET specific surface area is measured as defined previously.

The starting particles also have a density of the order of 2.5. By "of the order of" is meant that the density is 2.5 ± 0.2 . This density is given by the following formula:

$$\text{density} = \frac{1}{(1/\rho) + V_i}$$

in which:

ρ is the density of the anatase, i.e. 3.8,

5 V_i is the volume provided by the intraparticle pores, measured by the BJH method. By volume measured by the BJH method is meant the volume measured using the BARRETT-JOYNER-HELEND method described in an article in the publication "Techniques de l'Ingénieur" and entitled "Texture des solides poreux ou divisés", p. 3645-1 to 3645-13.

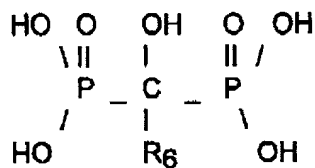
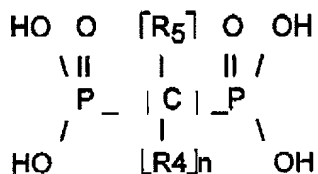
10 In order to measure the volume provided by the intraparticle pores of the particles according to the invention, when they are in the form of a dispersion, it is essential to follow the measurement protocol which consists of eliminating the liquid phase of the dispersion then drying the particles under vacuum at a temperature of 150°C for at least 4 hours.

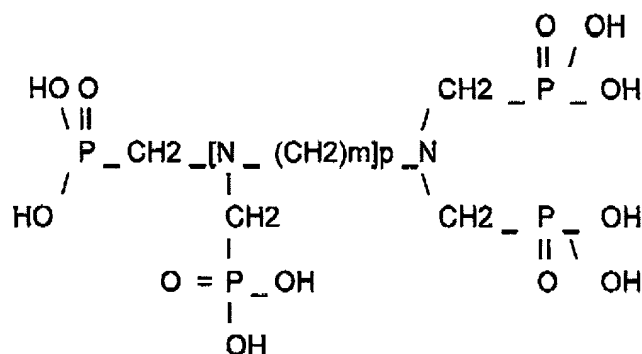
15 Particles as described above can be obtained by hydrolysis of at least one titanium compound A in the presence of at least one compound B chosen from:

(i) the acids having:

- either a carboxyl group and at least two hydroxyl and/or amine groups,
- or at least two carboxyl groups and at least one hydroxyl and/or amine group,

20 (ii) the organic phosphoric acids of the following formulae:





(iii) the compounds capable of releasing sulphate ions in an acid medium,
(iv) the salts of the acids described above,
and in the presence of anatase titanium dioxide seeds.

As regards the titanium compound A, a compound chosen from titanium halides, oxyhalides, alkoxides, sulphates and more particularly synthetic sulphates is generally used.

30 The preparation is preferably carried out with titanium compounds of the titanium halide or oxyhalide type. The titanium halides or oxyhalides which are more particularly used in the present invention are titanium fluorides, chlorides, bromides and iodides (respectively oxyfluorides, oxychlorides, oxybromides and oxyiodides).

35 The quantity of the titanium compound A present in the solution to be hydrolyzed is not critical.

The initial solution further contains at least one compound B as defined previously. As non-limitative example of compounds B falling within the scope of the present invention, there can be mentioned in particular:

- hydroxypolycarboxylic acids, and more particularly hydroxydi- or
5 hydroxytricarboxylic acids such as citric acid, maleic acid and tartaric acid,
- (polyhydroxy)monocarboxylic acids, such as for example glucoheptonic acid and gluconic acid,
- poly(hydroxycarboxylic) acids, such as for example tartaric acid
- dicarboxylic monoacids and their corresponding amides, such as for example
10 aspartic acid, asparagine and glutamic acid,
- monocarboxylic aminoacids, hydroxylated or non-hydroxylated, such as for example lysine, serine and threonine,
- methylene aminotriphosphonate, methylene ethylenediaminetetraphosphonate, methylene triethylenetetraaminohexaphosphonate,
15 methylene tetraethylenepentaaminoheptaphosphonate, methylene pentaethylenehexaaminooctaphosphonate,
- methylene diphosphonate; 1,1' ethylene diphosphonate; 1,2 ethylene diphosphonate; 1,1' propylene diphosphonate; 1,3 propylene diphosphonate; 1,6 hexamethylene diphosphonate; 2,4 dihydroxypentamethylene 2,4 diphosphonate; 2,5
20 dihydroxyhexamethylene 2,5 diphosphonate; 2,3 dihydroxybutylene 2,3 diphosphonate; 1 hydroxybenzyl 1,1' diphosphonate; 1 aminoethylene 1-1' diphosphonate; hydroxymethylene diphosphonate; 1 hydroxyethylene 1,1' diphosphonate; 1 hydroxypropylene 1-1' diphosphonate; 1 hydroxybutylene 1-1' diphosphonate; 1 hydroxyhexamethylene 1,1' diphosphonate.

- 25 As already indicated, it is also possible to use all the salts of the aforementioned acids as compound B. In particular, these salts are either alkaline salts and more particularly sodium salts, or ammonium salts.

These compounds can also be chosen from sulphuric acid and ammonium and in particular potassium sulphates.

- 30 Preferably, the compounds B as defined above are hydrocarbon-comprising compounds of aliphatic type. In this case, the length of the main hydrocarbon-comprising chain preferably does not exceed 15 carbon atoms, and more preferentially 10 carbon atoms. The preferred compound B is citric acid.

The quantity of compound B is not critical. In general, the molar concentration of compound B with respect to that of titanium compound A is comprised between 0.2 and 10% and preferably between 1 and 5%.

5 Finally, the starting solution comprises titanium dioxide seeds. The preferred specific characteristics of these seeds and their use are given below.

Thus, the titanium dioxide seeds used in the present invention firstly are of a size of less than 8 nm, measured by X-ray diffraction. Preferably, titanium dioxide seeds are used having a size comprised between 3 and 5 nm.

10 Next, the ratio by weight of titanium dioxide present in the titanium seeds present in the hydrolysis medium before introducing the seeds – i.e. provided by titanium compound A – and expressed in TiO_2 is comprised between 0.01 and 3%. This ratio can preferentially be comprised between 0.05 and 1.5%. The combination of these two conditions with respect to the seeds (size and ratio by weight) combined with the process described previously allows precise control over the final size of the titanium
15 dioxide particles, a level of seeds being associated with a particle size. Particles can be obtained in this way with a diameter which varies between 20 and 100 nm.

Titanium dioxide seeds are used in anatase form in order to induce the precipitation of the titanium dioxide in anatase form. Generally, as a result of their small size, these seeds are in a poorly crystallized anatase form. These seeds usually take
20 the form of an aqueous suspension constituted by titanium dioxide. They can generally be obtained in a known manner by a process for neutralizing a titanium salt by a base.

The following stage consists in hydrolyzing the starting solution by any means known to a person skilled in the art and in general by heating. In the latter case, hydrolysis can preferably be carried out at a temperature greater than or equal to 70°C.
25 It is also possible initially to operate at a temperature lower than the medium's boiling point then maintain the hydrolysis medium level at the boiling point.

Once hydrolysis is achieved, the titanium dioxide particles obtained are recovered by separating the precipitated solid from the mother liquors. They can be redispersed in a liquid medium, preferably acid or basic, for example in water, in order
30 to obtain a dispersion of titanium dioxide.

According to a variant of the process, after recovering the particles obtained following hydrolysis and before they are redispersed, the particles can be neutralized and/or subjected to at least one washing operation. The particles can be recovered for example by centrifuging the solution resulting from hydrolysis, they are then neutralized
35 by a base, for example an ammonium hydroxide or soda solution. They can be washed

by redispersing them in an aqueous solution, then the particles are separated from the aqueous washing phase. After optionally one or more other washing operations of the same type, the particles are redispersed in a liquid, for example water, which can preferably be acid or basic.

5 As regards titanium oxide particles in rutile form, these can be obtained by hydrolysis of a titanium compound chosen from the titanium halides, oxyhalides and alkoxides.

Titanium particles can be used in solid form by simple evaporation or by drying at a temperature of at most 120°C of the aforementioned dispersion, i.e. that obtained
10 after hydrolysis, separation from the hydrolysis medium and replacing in a liquid phase. This temperature is preferably comprised between 30 and 80°C.

As regards the preparation of the titanium oxide particles according to the two variants described above, i.e. those in which the particles comprise a coating, the process is carried out according to the contents of the aforementioned Patent
15 Applications EP-A-880564 and WO-A-98/01392. It can be recalled here, in the case of the first variant, that the process consists of precipitating at least one metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide on the surface of the titanium dioxide particles. This precipitation can be achieved by introducing into a dispersion of precursors of titanium dioxide particles metallic oxides, hydroxides or oxyhydroxides generally in the form of
20 aqueous solutions of salts, then modifying the pH in order to obtain the precipitation of these oxides, hydroxides or oxyhydroxides on the titanium dioxide particles.

In the case of the second variant, the process consists of precipitating at least one compound of cerium and/or iron on the surface of the titanium dioxide particles then of precipitating at least one metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide on the surface of
25 the particles obtained.

These precipitations can also be achieved by introducing into a dispersion of precursors of titanium dioxide particles compounds of cerium and/or iron, metallic oxides, hydroxides or oxyhydroxides generally in the form of aqueous solutions of salts, then modifying the pH in order to obtain the precipitation of these compounds, oxides,
30 hydroxides or oxyhydroxides on the titanium dioxide particles.

In general and for the two variants, this precipitation is carried out at a temperature of at least 50°C.

The preparation process for the sol according to the invention can be implemented according to a first variant. In this variant, the aforementioned amphiphilic
35 compound and the organic liquid phase are mixed together, then the titanium oxide

particles are dispersed in the mixture obtained. It should be noted that it is possible either to introduce the solid particles into the amphiphilic compound/organic phase mixture or to pour this mixture onto the titanium oxide particles. Once the particles, the amphiphilic compound and the organic phase have been brought into contact, agitation is carried out until a stable colloidal dispersion is obtained.

There is a second variant of the process. In this case, a mixture of titanium oxide and at least one aforementioned amphiphilic compound is formed. This mixture can be achieved using any known mechanical means such as mixing in order to obtain a homogeneous paste. In this way, a solid compound is obtained as defined above. Said mixture is then dispersed in the organic liquid phase.

A third variant will now be described which is more particularly suitable for the preparation of a sol in a polar organic phase.

This variant, for the preparation of a sol according to the invention in an organic liquid phase (a) includes a first stage in which a dispersion is formed comprising titanium oxide particles and at least one amphiphilic compound of the aforementioned type in an organic liquid phase (b) based on a solvent with lower polarity than that of the solvent of the organic liquid phase (a). On formation of this dispersion, segregation can be observed due to water which may be present in the starting hydrated titanium oxide. In this case, the segregated water is separated from the rest of the dispersion.

In a second stage, the solid phase of the dispersion is separated from its liquid phase (b). This separation can be carried out by any suitable technique. The separation can thus be carried out by flocculation by a third solvent or also by distillation or evaporation. Following this separation, a solid phase is obtained which can be dried and which takes the form, depending on the extent of drying, either of a powder or of a paste and which constitutes a solid compound according to the invention. In a last stage, the phase or the solid compound obtained in this way is redispersed in the organic phase (a) in order to obtain the sought sol.

The dispersions of titanium oxide particles in the organic phase can be subjected to an ultrafiltration treatment in order to improve their stability if necessary.

Finally, it should be noted that the sols obtained can be subjected to a dehydration post-treatment by passing them over a solid desiccant for example.

The sols according to the invention can be used in all the applications where titanium is used for its photocatalytic properties. In this case, the titanium oxide particles do not comprise any coating of the type described above.

The sols based on titanium oxide particles according to the invention and in particular those comprising particles with a coating of this type can be used as anti-UV agents in the preparation of formulations for cosmetics, varnishes, paints and plastics.

Non-limitative examples will now be given.

5

EXAMPLE 1-A

This example and the following relate to the preparation of a colloidal dispersion in an Isopar medium. The titanium oxide particles are first prepared as follows.

10 The following are added successively to 394.7 g of a titanium oxychloride solution at 1.9 mol/kg:

- 42.02 g of 36% hydrochloric acid,
- 4.73 g of citric acid,
- 547.1 g of purified water,
- 73.84 g of a suspension containing 1.06% by weight of anatase seeds.

15 The mixture is taken to boiling and maintained at boiling point for 3 hours. The solution is left to settle and the supernatant is siphoned out., followed by redispersing with one volume of demineralized water with one volume of water in order to obtain a dry extract of 20% by weight. In this way a perfectly stable sol is obtained. The size of the colloids is 22 nm.

20 11.2 g of ester phosphate Rhodafac RS 410 marketed by Rhodia is then first dissolved in 70 g of Isopar L at ambient temperature and under agitation. 10 g of TiO₂ powder is then introduced progressively into this mixture. This TiO₂ powder was obtained by drying the colloidal dispersion of TiO₂ oxide previously described at 50°C and contains 77% of TiO₂. The reaction mixture is completed with Isopar to reach a
25 total mass (amphiphilic compound + TiO₂ powder + Isopar) equal to 100 g, then left under agitation until a stable colloidal dispersion is obtained. A particle size is observed which is substantially identical to the size of the particles present in the initial aqueous colloidal dispersion.

30 EXAMPLE 1-B

26 g of TiO₂ powder obtained by drying the colloidal dispersion described in Example 1-a at 50°C is introduced. 29.9 g of ester phosphate RS 410 and CH₂Cl₂ is added to reach 336 g. Agitation is carried out overnight until a dispersion is obtained.

35 An aliquot of 168 g of the dispersion is evaporated in a rotary evaporator at 30°C under vacuum obtained by a water suction pump. The powder obtained in this way is

redispersed in an equivalent volume of Isopar. A dispersion in Isopar is obtained which is stable over time.

EXAMPLE 2-A

5 This example and the next example relate to the preparation of a colloidal dispersion in a xylene medium.

15.6 g of ester phosphate Rhodafac RS 710 marketed by Rhodia is first dissolved in 60 g of xylene at ambient temperature and under agitation. 10 g of TiO₂ powder obtained by drying the colloidal dispersion of TiO₂ previously described at 50°C is progressively introduced into this mixture to which xylene is added at ambient temperature to a total mass of 100 g. The reaction mixture is left under agitation until a stable colloidal dispersion is obtained. A particle size is observed which is substantially identical to the size of the particles present in the initial aqueous colloidal dispersion.

EXAMPLE 2-B

26 g of TiO₂ powder obtained by drying the colloidal dispersion described in Example 1-a at 50°C is introduced. 29.9 g of ester phosphate RS 410 is added and CH₂Cl₂ solvent is added to reach 336 g. Agitation is carried out overnight until a dispersion is obtained.

20 An aliquot of 168 g of dispersion is evaporated in a rotary evaporator at 30°C under vacuum obtained by a water-jet aspirator pump. The paste obtained in this way is redispersed in an equivalent volume of xylene. A dispersion in xylene is obtained which is stable over time.

EXAMPLE 3

This example relates to a colloidal dispersion in an ethyl acetate medium.

1.93 g of ester phosphate Rhodafac® RS 710 marketed by Rhodia is first dissolved in 15 g of xylene at ambient temperature and under agitation. 2 g of TiO₂ powder obtained by drying the colloidal dispersion of TiO₂ oxide previously described at 50°C is added progressively and xylene is added at ambient temperature to reach 20 g. Agitation is carried out until a stable colloidal dispersion is obtained.

5 g of the colloidal dispersion obtained in this way is evaporated at ambient temperature under a ventilated hood. The paste obtained in this way is redispersed in 4.11 g of ethyl acetate. After agitation, a colloidal dispersion is obtained which is stable

over time. A particle size of 24 nm is observed, which is substantially identical to the size of the particles present in the initial aqueous colloidal dispersion.

EXAMPLE 4

5 This example relates to a colloidal dispersion in a butanol medium.

0.77 g of ester phosphate Rhodafac® RS 710 marketed by Rhodia is first dissolved in 15 g of xylene at ambient temperature and under agitation. 2 g of TiO₂ powder obtained by drying the colloidal dispersion of TiO₂ oxide previously described at 50°C is introduced and xylene is added at ambient temperature in order to reach a total
10 mass of 20 g. Agitation is carried out until a stable colloidal dispersion is obtained.

5 g of the colloidal dispersion obtained in this way is evaporated at ambient temperature under a ventilated hood. The paste obtained in this way is redispersed in 4.35 g of butanol. After agitation, a colloidal dispersion is obtained which is stable over time. A particle size of 28 nm is observed.

15

EXAMPLE 5

This example relates to a colloidal dispersion in an ethanol medium

1.93 g of ester phosphate RS 710 marketed by Rhodia is first dissolved in 15 g of xylene at ambient temperature and under agitation. 2g of TiO₂ powder obtained by
20 drying the colloidal dispersion of TiO₂ oxide previously described at 50°C is added progressively and xylene is added at ambient temperature to reach 20 g. Agitation is carried out until a stable colloidal dispersion is obtained.

5 g of the colloidal dispersion obtained in this way is evaporated at ambient temperature under a ventilated hood. The paste obtained in this way is redispersed in
25 4.11 g of absolute ethanol. After agitation, a colloidal dispersion is obtained which is stable over time. A particle size of 23 nm is observed.

EXAMPLE 6

This example relates to a colloidal dispersion of TiO₂ coated with Al₂O₃ and
30 SiO₂ in Isopar.

A colloidal dispersion of TiO₂ nanoparticles is used the surface of which has been treated according to the operating method described in Example 2 of Patent Application EP-A-880564, the starting titanium oxide particles having been obtained according to Example 1 of said Application and by adding to the titanium oxychloride
35 solution 17.04 g of a suspension containing 1.06% by weight of anatase seeds having a

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size comprised between 5 and 6 nm. The colloidal dispersion has a dry extract of approx. 35%, colloids 60 nm in size. The composition of the surface coating is 15% SiO₂-5% Al₂O₃, the pH of the dispersion is 8.7.

This colloidal dispersion is evaporated overnight at 50°C in a ventilated oven.

5 A powder is obtained with 85.5% oxide.

A solution is prepared with 12.5% by weight of Rhodafac RS 410 in Isopar.

18 g of the 12.5% Isopar solution is added to 2 g of the dried powder obtained as described previously. A colloidal dispersion is then obtained which is stable over time.

10 EXAMPLE 7

This example relates to a colloidal dispersion of TiO₂ coated with Al₂O₃ and SiO₂ in isopropyl palmitate.

0.44 g of Rhodafac RS 410 and 18 g of isopropyl palmitate are added to 2.34 g of TiO₂ powder surface treated as described previously in Example 6. After agitation at ambient temperature, a colloidal dispersion is obtained which is stable over time.

EXAMPLE 8

This example relates to a colloidal dispersion of TiO₂ coated with Al₂O₃ and SiO₂ in isopropyl palmitate and with a high concentration of titanium oxide.

20 11.2 g of Rhodafac RS 410 is solubilized in 80 g of isopropyl palmitate. 60 g of TiO₂/Al₂O₃-SiO₂ powder produced as described previously in Example 6 is then added slowly, under agitation. After agitation at ambient temperature for 3 days, a dispersion is obtained. After dilution in isopropyl palmitate, a size of the order of 63 nm is determined, which is substantially identical to the size of the nanoparticles of the initial dispersion.

25

EXAMPLE 9

This example relates to a colloidal dispersion of TiO₂ coated with two layers, one based on CeO₂, the other based on Al₂O₃ and SiO₂ in isopropyl palmitate.

30 The colloidal dispersion of nanoparticles of TiO₂ surface treated according to the operating method described in Example 2 of WO-A-98/01392, the starting titanium oxide particles having been obtained according to Example 1 of said Application and by adding to the titanium oxychloride solution 11.36 g of a suspension containing 1.06% by weight of anatase seeds of a size comprised between 5 and 6 nm. This dispersion has a dry extract of approximately 23%, colloids 45 nm in size. The composition of the surface treatment is 15% SiO₂-5% Al₂O₃-5% CeO₂, the pH of the dispersion is 5.5.

35

This colloidal dispersion is evaporated overnight at 50°C in a ventilated oven.

A powder is obtained with 85.3% oxide.

- 11.2 g of Rhodafac RS 410 is solubilized in 80 g of isopropyl palmitate. 60 g of TiO₂ Al₂O₃-SiO₂-CeO₂ powder produced as described previously is added slowly and under agitation. After agitation at ambient temperature for 3 days, a dispersion is obtained which is stable over time. By granulometric analysis by dilution in isopropyl palmitate, a size of the order of 72 nm is determined, which is substantially identical to the size of the nanoparticles of the initial dispersion.
- 5

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CLAIMS

- 1- Organic sol, characterized in that it comprises:
 - titanium oxide particles;
 - 5 - an organic liquid phase;
 - at least one amphiphilic compound chosen from the polyoxyethylenated alkyl ether phosphates.
- 10 2- Sol according to claim 1, characterized in that the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered by a layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.
- 15 3- Sol according to claim 1, characterized in that the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered:
 - by a first layer of at least one cerium and/or iron compound, and
 - by a second layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.
- 20 4- Sol according to claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the titanium oxide particles have a BET specific surface area of at least 70 m²/g.
- 25 5- Sol according to one of claims 2 to 4, characterized in that the ratio by weight of the silicon or metallic oxide(s), hydroxide(s) or oxyhydroxide(s) to titanium dioxide is at most 60% by weight.
- 30 6- Sol according to one of claims 3 to 5, characterized in that the first aforementioned layer is based on at least one cerium compound with a content such that the ratio by weight of the cerium compound, expressed in CeO₂, to the titanium dioxide is at most 6% by weight.
- 35 7- Sol according to one of claims 2 to 6, characterized in that the aforementioned layer or the aforementioned second layer is based on silica and/or aluminium oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.
- 8- Sol according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that the organic liquid phase is based on a polar solvent.

9- Sol according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that the amphiphilic compound is chosen from polyoxyethylenated alkyl or alkylaryl ether phosphates.

5 10- Sol according to one of the previous claims, characterized in that the polar solvent is chosen from halogenated solvents, esters, alcohols.

10 11- Solid compound, characterized in that it comprises a mixture of titanium oxide particles and at least one amphiphilic compound chosen from polyoxyethylenated alkyl ether phosphates.

15 12- Solid compound according to claim 11, characterized in that the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered with a layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.

20 13- Solid compound according to claim 11, characterized in that the titanium oxide particles are at least partially covered:

- by a first layer of at least one cerium and/or iron compound, and
- by a second layer of at least one silicon or metallic oxide, hydroxide or oxyhydroxide.

25 14- Process for the preparation of a sol according to one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that the aforementioned amphiphilic compound and the organic liquid phase are mixed together, then the titanium oxide particles, optionally covered with one or both of the aforementioned layers, are dispersed in the mixture obtained.

30 15- Process for the preparation of a sol according to one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that a mixture is formed of titanium oxide particles, optionally covered by one or both of the aforementioned layers, and at least one aforementioned amphiphilic compound, then said mixture is dispersed in the liquid phase.

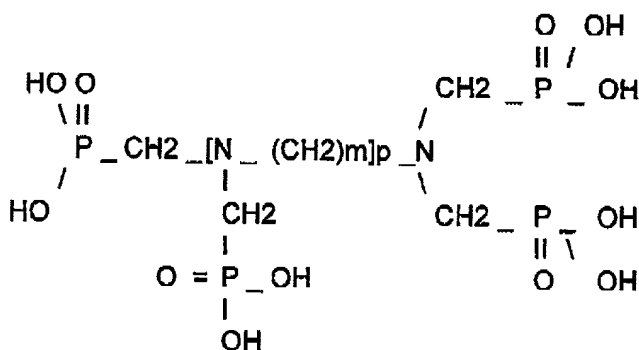
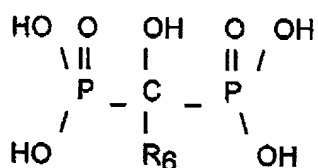
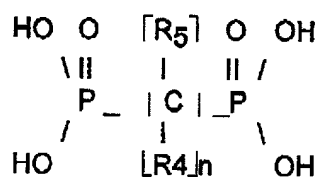
35 16- Process for the preparation of a sol according to one of claims 1 to 10 comprising an organic liquid phase (a), in particular a sol in an organic phase (a) based on a polar solvent, characterized in that a dispersion is formed comprising titanium oxide particles, optionally covered by one or both of the aforementioned layers, and at least one aforementioned amphiphilic compound in an organic liquid phase (b) based on a solvent

with a lower polarity than that of the solvent of the organic liquid phase (a); the solid phase is separated from the liquid phase (b); the solid phase obtained in this way is dispersed in the organic phase (a).

- 5 17- Preparation process according to one of claims 14 to 16, characterized in that, as starting product, titanium dioxide particles are used which were obtained by hydrolysis of at least one titanium compound A in the presence of at least one compound B chosen from:

(i) acids which have:

- 10 - either a carboxyl group and at least two hydroxyl and/or amine groups,
 - or at least two carboxyl groups and at least one hydroxyl and/or amine group,
 (ii) organic phosphoric acids of the following formulae:



in which n and m are integers comprised between 1 and 6, p is an integer comprised between 0 and 5, R₄, R₅ and R₆ identical or different represent a hydroxyl, amino, aralkyl, aryl, alkyl group or hydrogen group,

(iii) the compounds capable of releasing sulphate ions in an acid medium,

(iv) salts of the acids described above

and in the presence of anatase titanium dioxide seeds;

then separation of the precipitate formed from the hydrolysis medium.

18- Process according to claim 17, characterized in that, as starting product, titanium dioxide particles are used which were obtained by the aforementioned hydrolysis process and in which the anatase titanium dioxide seeds are of a size no greater than 8 nm and are present in a ratio by weight expressed in TiO₂ present in the seeds/titanium present before the introduction of the seeds into the hydrolysis medium, expressed in TiO₂ comprised between 0.01% and 3%.

19- Process according to claim 17 or 18, characterized in that, as starting product, titanium dioxide particles are used which were obtained by the aforementioned hydrolysis process and in which the titanium compound A is titanium oxychloride.

20- Process according to one of claims 17 to 19, characterized in that, as starting product, titanium dioxide particles are used which were obtained by the aforementioned hydrolysis process and in which compound B is citric acid.

21- Process according to one of claims 17 to 20, characterized in that, as starting product, titanium dioxide particles are used which were obtained by a process comprising the aforementioned hydrolysis and in which the precipitate formed is separated from the hydrolysis medium then redispersed in water resulting in a dispersion of titanium oxide in water and where said dispersion is dried at a temperature no greater than 120°C.

22- Process according to one of claims 14 to 21, characterized in that the sol is subjected to an ultrafiltration treatment.

23- Use of a sol according to one of claims 1 to 10 for the preparation of formulations for cosmetics, varnishes, paints and in plastics.

COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
(Includes Reference to Provisional and PCT International Applications)

Attorney's Docket No.

022701-943

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

ORGANIC SOL AND SOLID COMPOUND BASED ON TITANIUM OXIDE AND AN

AMPHIPHILIC COMPOUND AND PREPARATION METHODS

the specification of which (check only one item below):

☐ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed as United States application

Number _____

on _____

and was amended

on _____ (if applicable).

☒ was filed as PCT international application

Number PCT/FR00/00342

on 11 February 2000

and was amended

on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 (a)-(e) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119:

COUNTRY (if PCT, indicate "PCT")	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119
FR	99/01940	17 February 1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number)

(Filing Date)

(Application Number)

(Filing Date)

COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY (CONT'D)
(Includes Reference to Provisional and PCT International Applications)

Attorney's Docket No.

022701-943

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to the patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR U.S. APPLICATIONS OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S. FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. §120:

U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS (check one)		
U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.				
PCT APPLICATION NO.	PCT FILING DATE	U.S. APPLICATION NUMBERS ASSIGNED (if any)		

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and agent(s) to prosecute said application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and to file, prosecute and to transact all business in connection with international applications directed to said invention:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
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RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			